

Remarks

Claims 1-2 and 4-20 remain in this application. Claim 3 was previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 16, and 18 are hereby amended. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections--35 USC 103

Claims 1, 5, 7-10 and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Park (US 2002/0085554) in view of Navada (US 2003/0214956), Musoll (US 7,155,516), and Ambe (US 2002/0196796) (Park, Navada, Musoll, and Ambe). Similarly, the remaining claims 2, 4, 6, 11-15, and 17-20 stand rejected based on Park, Navada, Musoll and Ambe in combination with one or more other references. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the claims as hereby amended.

Claim 1 is hereby amended and now recites as follows.

1. A method of processing a data packet **by a networking switch**, the method comprising:
 - receiving the data packet at a network device;
 - determining whether a multiple-key decision cache is hit by the data packet;
 - applying at least one cached action if the decision cache is hit;
 - processing the data packet using software routines if the decision cache is missed;
 - determining whether action performed by the software routines is programmable into the multiple-key decision cache; and
 - programming a new entry into the multiple-key decision cache if the action performed is programmable,wherein the new entry indexes into the multiple-key decision cache, and programming the new entry does not involve storing the data packet, and

wherein said cached action comprises network address translation of the data packet.

(Emphases added.)

As shown above, claim 1 now recites that the method of processing a data packet is performed "**by a networking switch**" (emphasis added). This claim language is supported, for example, by the description of FIG. 2 in the original application, which recites "FIG. 2 is a flow chart depicting a method **200** of processing a packet at a networking switch in accordance with an embodiment of the invention."

This claim language specifying that the method is performed "by a networking switch" is added to make clear the context of the newly-added "network address translation" limitation discussed below. Applicants respectfully note that the primary reference of Park relates to "Method of **Routing** a Packet in a Routing Device." (Emphases added.)

As further shown above, claim 1 now recites that "said **cached action** comprises **network address translation** of the data packet." (Emphasis added.) This claim language is supported, for example, on page 6, lines 1-2 of the original application, which recites, "For example, the action applied may involve NAT translation and forwarding of the packet." As is defined on page 5, line 9 of the original application NAT is an acronym for "Network Address Translation". Network address translation involves rewriting IP source and IP destination addresses, and usually also TCP port numbers, of a data packet.

This claim limitation specifying that "said cached action comprises network address translation of the data packet" is added to more specifically claim the invention such that it is patentably distinguished over the cited art. In particular, none of the cited art discloses a **cached action** comprising **network address translation** of a data packet.

In relation to claim 1, the latest office action cites to Park as disclosing the **sending of a packet to an interface** corresponding to the cache address. See page 3 of the office action. However, no network address translation action as a cached action is taught or suggested by Park or the other cited references.

Thus, applicants respectfully submit that, with the above-discussed amendments, claim 1 is now tailored with specific limitations that patentably distinguished it over the cited art.

Claims 2 and 4-15 depend from claim 1. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that these claims are now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 16 is an independent claim and is amended similarly as claim 1 is amended. In particular, claim 16 now recites "A network **switching** apparatus ... wherein said **cached action** performed comprises **network address translation** of the data packet." (Emphases added.) Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claim 17 depends from claim 16. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 16.

Claim 18 is an independent claim and is amended similarly as claim 1 is amended. In particular, claim 18 now recites "A method of processing a data packet by a networking **switch** ... wherein said cached action comprises **network address translation** of the data packet." Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claim 18 is now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 1.

Claims 19-20 depends from claim 18. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 19-20 are now patentably distinguished over the cited art for at least the reasons discussed above in relation to claim 18.

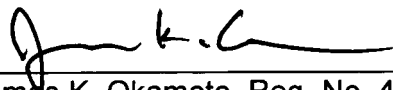
Conclusion

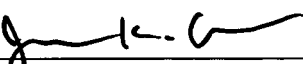
For the above-discussed reasons, applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims, as hereby amended, are now patentably distinguished over the cited art. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is also invited to call the below-referenced attorney to discuss this case.

Respectfully Submitted,

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